

The Unifier



54 South Whitney Street, Grayslake, Illinois 60030 | (847) 223-8131 | upc@upcgl.org | www.upcgl.org

August 2023

Brothers and Sisters,

I am so grateful to UPC and to everyone who helped to make our retreat, Crossing Over, a success. I felt great energy from the day. It seemed the presentations were thoughtful and well received. I know that our morning certainly seemed to energize everyone. I have received a decent amount of feedback, most of which has been thoughtful and overall positive. That said, I welcome further thoughts from any participants. It is clear, if nothing else, that Bible Study, praying with Curt's Café and the hymn sing were the highlights for most participants.

As we move toward another Fall, I carry one minor regret away from the retreat. We covered so much, and folks were beginning to get a bit fried; and we cut our afternoon work time short. I am convinced with 20/20 hindsight that could have possibly been a mistake. However, it could also very well become a strength.

Cutting our work time short can be a strength if our commissioners and committees will pick up the good work we did that day and keep moving forward. I want to call all of our committees, beginning in our August meetings, to review those conversations, to keep those visions and ideas in front of you. Perhaps even to take the psalm from that day (126) and pray it at the start of your meetings. It is my prayer that you will find the energy from the day, this month and next month, and ten months down the line, and continue drumming it up to renew and inspire creative mission and creativity in all of our committees across the board. I, in turn, promise to work with staff and Administrative Council to help empower our committees to take this work and energy forward into the future.

Brother and Sister, hear me. Retreats are great. They provide the opportunity to review who we are, and where we are going. They provide time to be together and have inspiring, creative conversations. However, they always run the risk of being a one-time, energy producing stop along the way. It is my hope that we crossed over into the next chapter of United Protestant Church of Grayslake's walk with The Lord.

So, we head rapidly towards another Fall. I look forward to gathering together on August 27th for outdoor worship, blessing of the backpacks, and fellowship as we launch another year of Christian Education. I am incredibly grateful to Ryan Aubrey for all his work preparing for another great year, much as I am grateful and hopeful for all the work that we will all do to cross over to another time together.

Blessings!

Pastor Jason Okrzynski, PhD

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

It is hard to believe that the summer is already winding down and our fall programming is rapidly approaching. I am excited to share with you more information about our plans for the Fall, and if you want even more information and to sign-up for our programs, join us Sunday, August 27th after the service for a hotdog picnic, ice cream, and to hear what our ministries are planning for this upcoming year. Sunday School returns this Fall on September 10, 2023. It will be a wonderful time together.

Children's Ministry is moving into our second year of JIF curriculum. This year our kids will be exploring the Covenant. This is a really important concept that runs throughout Scripture. The Bible Project has a great 5-minute video on the Covenants, which I would encourage you to watch so you can get a glimpse of what our kids and families will be exploring throughout the year. I would be happy to share the video with you if you need help finding it.

I am also really excited to tell you about a great opportunity for parents to explore and discuss together the topic of how we use technology in our homes and lives. Emily Aubrey will be leading a discussion of the book *Tech-Wise Family* beginning in September. This will be a great opportunity to talk about an increasingly important topic in our culture. Be watching for more information regarding this opportunity soon. If you are interested in getting a taste of what will be talked about, there is a video series with the author on our RightNow Media account.

Our Adult Ministries study will also begin on September 10th. This year, we will be doing studies that broadly connect with our worship themes throughout the year. Our first study will connect with the theme of Disciples in Relationship. Registration for our Adult Education opportunities will be held August 27th as well. Be watching for more information on our Adult study soon.

On the family front, it was a busy summer season for us. We had a great opportunity to celebrate the life of Emily's grandfather this summer. It was a wonderful celebration and so special to see the love and support his community provided. I always enjoy seeing and hearing about who comes to funerals. Amid the grief of the event, the kids got their first opportunity to experience a classic small town funeral reception. Anabelle was particularly excited about the four options of Jell-O salads, yes including one with vegetables in it. She was also amazed that there were more options for dessert than the rest of the meal.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this update. I am really looking forward to the beginning of our ministry year once again. Join us August 27th for our hotdog picnic, ice cream social, and registration Sunday.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey
Director of Christian Education



BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH - AFTER 10AM WORSHIP

PICNIC ON THE FRONT LAWN
WITH HOTDOGS AND ICE CREAM

SUNDAY SCHOOL
REGISTRATION/INFORMATION
FOR ALL AGES



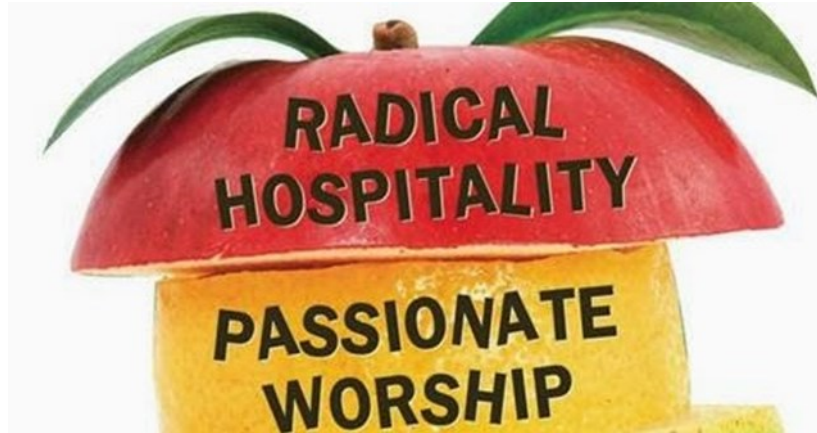
United
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Church
of Grayslake

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PLUS
MORE!

The worship service on August 27th will be held outdoors on the front lawn at 10 AM. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Picnic tables will be set up. Children may bring their school backpacks to have them blessed for the new school year. The picnic and ice cream social will follow the service. Hotdogs, chips, drinks, and ice cream will be provided. The Mission Committee will also display various mission opportunities for everyone to learn about and consider participating in. Come join this fun event! This is a celebration to end the summer and start the new church school year. Hope to see you there!

STEWARDSHIP NEWS



Dear Members and Friends,

This month we add **PASSIONATE WORSHIP** to the *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (Robert Schnase). As Christians, our worship changes us, preparing us for our Christian walk in many ways. "Worship breathes life into the community of Christ followers," providing us with biblical instruction, spiritual renewal, a family of fellow believers from whom we can draw strength and comfort, and a safe place to receive pardon for our sins, restore our broken relationships, and ultimately, change our lives for the glory of God.

When you enter worship, are you expecting God to meet you there? Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to transform you or do you catch yourself evaluating the quality of the performances? If you have set your mind on meeting God rather than critiquing the words of the pastor or if the choir members are singing on key, He meets you there through prayer, music, sermons and fellowship with other believers and transforms the congregation into the Body of Christ.

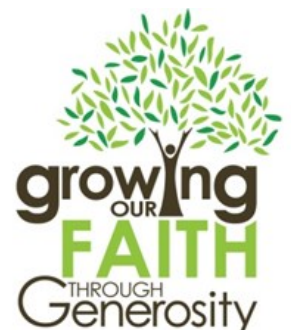
Along with presenting ourselves before God with a willingness to be transformed by the Spirit, we can also support our worship efforts with our giving dollars where we can aspire to provide trained childcare for all services, update lighting, video and sound systems so they are crystal clear, and provide something as simple as large-print bulletins for the visually challenged.

Also, if you have the desire/talent to support the UPC with your time, please consider joining the vocal or bell choir, think about serving on the worship committee as they support the pastor in preparing the worship services, and invite friends looking for a church to join us in worship on Sunday mornings.

"My soul longs...for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. ... For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere" (Psalm 84:2,10).

Trusting Our God Who Provides,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen, Stewardship Chairwoman



STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONIAL

Presented by Jackie Ianson on July 23rd

I MISS THE NOISE! I grew up in our church. I participated in Sunday school, youth group, and Confirmation. I remember Sunday school when all of our classrooms were FULL and bursting at the seams with children.

Youth group didn't include just UPC kids. We all brought our friends. We did mostly service projects and also had monthly pizza and game nights, sleep-ins at the church, or we would camp out on Hal and Nancy Alvin's property. We had fun and I have a lot of fond memories from that time in my life. The kids and the leaders were amazing.

I realize that it's become a cultural thing not to go to church, but I feel that it's important to have families, especially children, come to church and learn about God and make new friends in a safe environment within our Christian community. Children are definitely welcome in our church and in worship.

UPC has recently hired a new nursery coordinator so that families with very young children will have a safe place for them to go while the parents have an uninterrupted hour to focus on their worship time with God.

So bring your children to worship — I miss the noise!

AUGUST 2023

UPC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| 30 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR) | 31 7:00pm JIF Planning Meeting (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 1 6:30pm Pack 451 All Dens Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) | 2 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Board of Review (101) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) | 3 7:00pm Staff Parish (MR) 7:30pm AA (106,105) | 4 | 5 |
| 6 10:00am Worship Service | 7 7:00pm Stewardship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 8 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) | 9 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) | 10 7:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 7:30pm AA (106,105) | 11 | 12 |
| 13 10:00am Worship Service | 14 7:00pm Children's Ministry Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (FH) 8:00pm Christian Ed. Commission (MR) | 15 6:30pm Pack 451 Monthly Pack Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (203) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101) | 16 7:00pm Alanon (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) | 17 7:30pm AA (FH) | 18 | 19 |
| 20 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR) | 21 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 22 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Membership & Outreach (MR) | 23 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Membership Cultivation Committee (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) | 24 7:30pm AA (106,105) | 25 | 26 |
| 27 10:00am Outdoor Worship Service 11:00am All Church Picnic, Ice Cream Social, & Back-to-Church School Celebration (front lawn) | 28 7:00pm Mission Committee (Parlor) 7:00pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 29 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) | 30 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) | 31 7:30pm AA (106,105) | 1 | 2 |



UPC Joy Sharing for August



PADS Lake County has provided emergency shelter sites for those experiencing a housing crisis in Lake County since Christmas Eve, 1987. Our UPC PADS Site, a partnership between United Protestant Church and St. Gilbert Catholic Church, has been a part of this Emergency Shelter Program since 1991. Sites offer the hospitality of 3 meals, toiletries, and some clothing in addition to a safe and warm place to sleep from October through April. Covid regulations caused all church sites to close. When safety regulations allowed reopening, many sites were unable to do so because of the lack of volunteers. Some church sites, such as our UPC PADS Site, have become support churches for larger churches that couldn't open without the extra volunteers. **Volunteers and church sites are needed.** Read more about this in the PADS UPDATE found in this August *UNIFIER*.

Since 1987, PADS Lake County has expanded its program of Public Action to Deliver Shelter to include 5 different programs and has changed the acronym **PADS** to stand for **Providing Advocacy, Dignity & Shelter**. All of these programs have continued to offer assistance to those experiencing a housing crisis in spite of Covid and the numerous related restrictions.

The **Emergency Shelter Program** shifted completely, and now in part, to placing clients in hotels and providing food and other necessities to them in those locations. Church sites are open; more sites and volunteers are needed.

Other programs include the **Day Resource Center**—the point of entry for those experiencing homelessness; **Outreach**—seeks to find and engage people experiencing homelessness out in the community: sleeping in cars, parks, tents, etc.; **Prevention & Diversion**—provides earlier intervention to those at risk of homelessness, seeking to stop them from falling into it; and **Supportive Housing**—for individuals facing longer-term homelessness as a result of physical or mental disability and follows the “Housing First” model which is designed to get people into housing and out of homeless as quickly and appropriately as possible. More information can be found about all of these programs on the PADS Lake County website: www.padslakecounty.org.

MISSIONS

Feed My Starving Children

The next UPC packing sessions at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville are scheduled for **Tuesday, August 1** and **Tuesday, September 5** from **7:00-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at bartzc@sbcglobal.net.

Below are some pictures of the UPC group at Feed My Starving Children from Tuesday, July 11.



*COME JOIN THE FUN!
We're changing the
world in a hairnet.*



MISSIONS

Operation Christmas Child

For August, we are collecting school supplies for Operation Christmas Child with an emphasis on scissors, erasers and manual pencil sharpeners. We would like 200 of each. Please watch for back-to-school sales which are starting now.



An OCC story by Shanika & Sherika:

We grew up in rural Jamaica sharing most things, not because we're twins, but because it was a necessity for our family to make ends meet. Our parents had us in their late teens. They couldn't afford an ultrasound, so having twins was unexpected. Our mom and dad had to stop attending college in order to provide for us. They worked hard — our mom at home and our dad in sugar cane fields. Both Christians, our parents had faith that the Lord Jesus would provide for our needs. Every morning, they gathered us together for devotions.

To enable both of us to have something to write on at school, our father cut an 8" x 9" notebook in half. He also broke a pencil in two and sharpened the lead with a knife because we didn't have a pencil sharpener. We wished we could have full-sized notebooks and pencils like some of our peers. Our wish came true at age 8 when we heard shriek after shriek of delight in the halls of our school.

Large cardboard boxes with a shoebox plane printed on them were delivered to each classroom. We were so excited about these huge brown boxes and were curious to see what was inside. We rejoiced when we learned that they contained shoebox gifts for us. One of us received two full-sized notebooks! We shared what was in our shoeboxes so we could each have one. We also received our first calculator—a small gray one we still love to use.

We received a pair of woolen mittens. We didn't need them for warmth, but we put them to good use as pot holders. Our parents still have them at home in Jamaica. We also received pencils and pencil sharpeners, as well as crayons, coloring books, and personal care items.

At first, we wondered who we knew that would send us these gifts. We had learned the story of the Good Samaritan in Sunday School. So when we saw Samaritan's Purse printed on the tape that held the shoebox closed, we knew that Good Samaritan had sent us these gifts.

Through the shoebox gifts, we learned that you don't have to be close neighbors in order to help each other. These gifts came from strangers. The boxes of gifts ultimately reflected the goodness of Christ, showing us that the Lord graciously provides for us. We felt God's love for us as we received them.

UPC will be packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child in November. Please help us collect the items we need to fill each box so that other children may come to know God's love through these simple gifts.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

UPC Shopper

As you head out to purchase your children's school supplies this year, don't forget to pick up UPC shopper cards for stores like Meijer, Walmart or Target. Use shopper cards to pay for your school supplies and help support the Operation Christmas Child mission project. A small portion of each card you purchase goes to help defray our shipping costs.



Thanks to Laurie Bethmann for adding our UPC logo to our new visitor gift bags. To see more of Laurie's work, visit her on Facebook—One Blessed Mama.

The Worship Committee is looking for greeter volunteers for each Sunday morning before the worship service begins starting in September. If you are interested in being a greeter, please contact Barb Fischel at 847-612-7356 or cbfischel@aol.com.

WELCOME Vanessa Martinez, our new Nursery Coordinator who will start Sunday, August 6 taking care of children under age 3 during the worship services. We are looking for nursery helpers each Sunday morning. If you are interested, please contact Vanessa or Ryan Aubrey.

Are you interested in helping our community? UPC is collecting new or gently-used generic backpacks for children in need to be distributed to local schools. These backpacks will be blessed on August 27th during our celebration before they are given to the children. Backpacks may be dropped off to the UPC office or bring them with you on August 27th. Thank you!





UPC PADS SITE WILL NOT OPEN FOR 2023-2024 SEASON:

Neither our UPC PADS Site nor St. Mary of Vernon will be able to recruit enough volunteers individually to open this coming PADS Emergency Shelter Season. Therefore, UPC PADS volunteers will be volunteering at St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church in Indian Creek, Wildwood Presbyterian Church in Gages Lake, and at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Grayslake in order to help these sites remain open to welcome guests for the 2023-2024 Emergency Shelter Season. Our UPC PADS kitchen crew will once again provide a monthly dinner meal for guests who are taken to St. Mary of Vernon. Most volunteers will be returning to the shifts they worked onsite on Thursday nights at St. Mary's, but some will be volunteering closer to home at either Shepherd of the Lakes on Monday nights, or at Wildwood Presbyterian on Tuesday nights. If you are interested in knowing more about volunteering at these or at sites that are open on other nights of the week, please contact Rose Pech, pads_at_upc@hotmail.com or 847-223-8131, ext. 17.

Donations made to UPC PADS will continue to be used to meet the PADS guests' and clients' needs, whether they are going to one of these sites, are in a hotel room, or receive what they need at the Day Resource Center because they are going to one of the other sites that will be open.

More sites are needed, especially on Tuesday and Saturday nights! If you know of a building that has a large area that can be used for sleeping the guests, please call the PADS Lake County Day Resource Center's main number 847-689-4357 and choose to speak with Eric Foote, or email him at efoote@padslakecounty.org.

WILL THE UPC PADS SITE OPEN AS A SHELTER SITE IN THE FUTURE?

We don't currently have the answer to this question. Rose Pech and Rick Burg will be sharing information with the UPC Mission Committee in October. They will be discussing how UPC can best serve PADS, hopefully, in continued partnership and cooperation with St. Gilbert Catholic Church. The Mission Committee members then have the responsibility of deciding what this might look like as we move forward. Watch for more information later this winter or in spring and early summer when the decision must be made for the 2024-2025 Emergency Shelter Season and beyond.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED & AMAZING SUPPORT OF UPC PADS!

--The UPC PADS Site Leadership Team

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



THE LAST DAYS OF SUMMER ARE UPON US:

Our WCF members have enjoyed the relaxing times of visiting this summer and are looking forward to fall when many activities resume, bringing more people back to our church building and into community with one another. We hope those of you who haven't yet visited one of our circles will do so either at an August meeting (see the chart below for details), or at our regular monthly meetings starting in September. Watch the church bulletin, Tuesday Newsday emails, and the UNIFIER newsletters for more information.

WCF CIRCLES: VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Circle 2 meets at 11:30 AM in the Meeting Room one Sunday a month, except for the months of January and February, after visiting with others following worship. The next dates are August 20 and September 24. Contact Catherine Vick.

Circle 4/5 usually meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 11:30 AM, and some members have continued to do this throughout the summer. The August meeting will be on August 2 at 11:30 AM at Culver's in Grayslake. Contact Sue Schmidt.

Circle 9 meets most months year-round at 5:30 PM on the second Tuesday of each month at Hillside Restaurant on Rt. 83 in Grayslake. Occasionally, a meeting must be cancelled so please check with Ruth Gheysen or one of the Circle 9 members prior to going to Hillside.

Circle 10 does not meet in person on a regular basis, but members are in contact with each other on Facebook. Contact Jasmine Walker.

| Circle | Day/Date | Time | Place | Contact |
|--------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 2 | Sun., August 20 | 11:30 AM | UPC Meeting Room | Catherine Vick |
| 4/5 | Wed., August 2 | 11:30 AM | Culver's in Grayslake | Sue Schmidt |
| 9 | Tues., August 8 | 5:30 PM | Hillside Restaurant | Ruth Gheysen |
| 10 | TBD | TBD | TBD | Jasmine Walker |

See this chart to find out which day and time work for you!

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact the chairpersons (see church directory or contact Sue Schmidt at 847-529-9326 or schmidt6134@comcast.net).

WCF MISSION FUND: Tyler and Brittany need a monthly income of \$2,000 to meet their budget. We encourage those who can donate now and anytime during 2023 to do so by either going online to www.ilad.ngo/D2002 or by paper check payable to ILAD with D2002 written in the memo. Mail checks to ILAD, Atten: D2002, P.O. Box 383153, Duncanville, TX 75138-3183. Donations for 2024 can be made with checks payable to UPC with "WCF Mission Fund" in the memo or by cash in an envelope marked WCF Mission Fund.

--Blessings, Rose Pech

August Birthdays

8/1 Cameron Mussay
8/1 Madeline Mussay
8/2 David Runyon
8/6 Sean DelGrosso
8/8 John Eldridge
8/11 Adam Divis
8/12 Jen Ansell
8/12 Karen Runyon
8/13 Janet Katien
8/18 Ted Becker
8/21 Simon Mall
8/23 Varsha Mall
8/24 Gretchen Jagla
8/31 Judith Becker



August Anniversaries

8/26 Chris & Tracy Celeslie
8/26 Chuck & Diane Trowitch
8/28 Dan & Paula Watkins



UPC's Continued Prayers for Members, Relatives, and Friends:

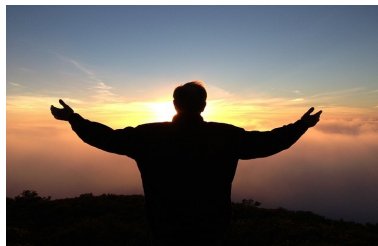
Members: Bill Churchill, Marie Frandsen, the Fuller family, Susan Green, Joan Hendricks, David Holliman, Joanne Lawrence, Marjorie Miller, Pat Wackerlin, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Dian Weinkauf.

Tyler, Brittany & Danielle, & Joanna – went to be with Brittany's parents on July 21 when they had to leave their rental home from July 21-31. Tyler & Danielle are spending July 25-Aug.2 with Tyler's parents. Prayers for all 4 of them during these periods of transition when they also prepare for their return to West Africa. We continue to pray for good health for all of them, for the speedy processing of Joanna's required paperwork, and for discernment in prioritizing responsibilities as they complete tasks here. We pray for all to go well in West Africa while they're still in the states.

Relatives & Friends: Allen Anglin, Joann Baraksa, Kathy Behm, Joe Boccaleoni, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Megan Brown, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Mary Mason, Gloria Meier, Pat Mielke, Tommy Nellessen, Sohail Rana, Gary Sadlack, Leslie Stahl, Stephan, Erik and Kacie Stanley, their son and Erik's mother, Diane.

Long-term prayers: Bruce Baird, Flora Boehm & family, Betty Bournes, Thomas Bournes, Mary Brase, Don & Tina Busch, Brad Fuller, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, Conny Kappler, Ben Kelly-Fuller, Sue (PADS friend), Wendy (friend of Rose Pech), and Michelle (friend of Linda Markham).

LOVING GOD,



HEAR OUR PRAYER.

**To Access UPC's Calendar On
Line**

[http://
www.mychurchevents.com/
calendar/calendar.aspx?
ci=L6F0H2O9G1F0O9L6I3](http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=L6F0H2O9G1F0O9L6I3)

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Church Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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